



MEDIA RELEASE

A CAPITAL FIRST: CONFERENCE TO KICK-START CULTURAL CAREERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ottawa, March 18, 2015 - **The Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa (CHOO|COPO)** is pleased to present the **Emerging Cultural Professionals Conference (ECPC)**, a one-day bilingual conference for post-secondary students and young adults interested in pursuing or advancing a career in the culture and heritage sector.

The Conference will take place on Saturday March 21, 2015, at Ottawa City Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. commencing with welcome remarks at 9:30 a.m. from Somerset Ward Councillor Catherine McKenney and CHOO|COPO Executive Director Catherine Lindquist.

"I wish to congratulate CHOO|COPO and all of the conference supporters and participants, and I'm pleased that the City of Ottawa is playing an important role in this great career-building initiative," said **Councillor McKenney**, "It's fitting the conference will kick off in the 'Heritage' Building at City Hall, and even more so, as it was the former Ottawa Teacher's College/Normal School."

"CHOO|COPO is very excited to be presenting this first of its kind conference in the Capital, with financial support from the City of Ottawa and in-kind support from many partners," said **CHOO|COPO Executive Director Catherine Lindquist**, "With over 100 participants, we know there was a need for this career-building day."

"We're also pleased that **Jenna Rose, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator at Canada's National Ballet School** will be our keynote speaker. Jenna is an excellent example of career development through volunteering and internships with culture and heritage organizations," said Lindquist. Ms. Rose's experience includes the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Toronto International Film Festival and Ontario Museum Association.

Lindquist noted that youth talent is behind many facets of the ECPC including: the planning coordinator supported by an **Ontario Youth Employment Fund**; multi-media students from **Algonquin College** filming a promo video and the presentations; and young volunteers at the event. "For many of our registrants, it may also be their first professional conference – another learning experience in itself!" she said.

With an affordable registration cost of just \$20, the Conference will provide aspiring young adults with hands-on tools from and direct networking with established professionals from national, provincial and local organizations. Workshops are offered in a French or English stream and cover topics like organizing fundraising events, strategic volunteering and continuing education. The established professionals will also have workshops to help them secure funding to hire youth.

Two great networking opportunities will occur at the conference. A **Cultural Circuit** will enable youth to directly 'speed-connect' with a cross-section of national, provincial and local culture and heritage professionals. And, the day will wind up with a **Networking Social** where further connections can be made by all.

In-kind conference partners include: the Province of Ontario, Ontario Museum Association, Algonquin College, Ottawa Museum Network, Cartier Place Suite Hotel, Vintners' Selection, Dominion City Brewing Co., and Bridgehead. Area businesses and cultural organizations have also generously contributed door prizes.

Post-secondary students and young adults can register on Eventbrite.ca and more information can be found at www.choocopo.ca.

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CHOO-COPO Background:

Founded in 1992, The Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa (CHOO|COPO) is a non-profit charitable organization focusing on the preservation and promotion of Ottawa-based heritage resources, organizations and activities. CHOO|COPO presents Heritage Day, training like the Emerging Cultural Professionals Conference, the Gathering of Council and Bytown Days.

CHOO|COPO gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa.